

Matchmaker: Mushrooms of the Pacific Northwest

Below are written descriptions and images of fruiting bodies, mushrooms, of the fungal species in this ectomycorrhizal association. The information is from the web version of the Matchmaker: Mushrooms of the Pacific Northwest (MMPNW) created by the Canadian Forest Service and based on the Windows MMPNW version 1.3 by Ian and Eli Gibson.

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LATIN NAME(S) *Mycena acicula* (Fr.) Quelet Champ. Jura et Vosges p.107. 1872

ENGLISH NAME(S) coral spring *Mycena*

NOTES Adoni-minutive, Courtecuise places in Section Aciculae, Smith in Subsection Aciculae of Deminutivae; characterized by bright color, nonmarginate gills (but may have white edges), slender stature, large subfusoid spores, and cystidia; Maas Geesteranus notes "It is precisely because of the pseudoparenchymatous structure of its hypoderm that I would not be surprised one day to see *M. acicula* segregated from *Mycena* and placed in a genus of its own"; Smith studied collections from WA, OR, ON, AL, NC, MI, France, says that it "probably occurs" in BC (but doubts Davidson's report), Maas Geesteranus mentions for northern Africa

CAP 0.3-0.7(1.0)cm, small, convex or bell-shaped, sometimes expanding when old; coral-red when young, soon fading (often from margin inward) to bright orange-yellow or yellow; not viscid, (Arora), 0.3-1.0cm, obtuse or convex when young, becoming broadly convex or bellshaped, sometimes with a small abrupt umbo, margin appressed against stem when young, often flaring or recurved as expansion takes place, a narrow sterile band which often becomes lobed or lacerated forms the extreme edge; not hygrophanous, "coral red" when young, soon yellowish toward margin, slowly fading to bright orange yellow; smooth, at first hoary-pruinose, soon bald, faintly translucent-striate when moist, (Smith), Maas Geesteranus says slightly viscid (with dirt sticking to surface)

FLESH very thin; yellow, (Arora), thin, brittle; yellow, (Smith), thin, orange-red in cap, yellow in stem, (Maas Geesteranus)



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GILLS attached (usually adnate); pale orange to yellow or whitish, (Arora), adnate or slightly rounded next to stem, close to subdistant, 10-14 reach stem, 2-3 tiers of subgills, moderately broad; pale orange to whitish, often yellowish at the base and whitish along the edges, (Smith), ascending, 9-16 reaching stem, about 0.1cm broad, somewhat ventricose; deep orange yellow near base, paler toward edge, becoming pale, the edge whitish; not veined, (Maas Geesteranus)

STEM 1-7cm x 0-0.1cm, threadlike, equal, brittle; orange-yellow to yellow, smooth except for white hairy base, (Arora), 1-6cm long and up to 0.1cm wide, flexuous (bent both ways), brittle; densely white-pruinose at first but soon bald and orange-yellow or lemon yellow; base strigose with white hairs, (Smith), Maas Geesteranus says somewhat viscid

VEIL none

ODOR mild (Arora), not distinctive (Smith)

TASTE not distinctive (Smith)

EDIBILITY unknown (Arora)

HABITAT "solitary, scattered or in small groups on leaves and debris in woods, especially along streams and in other wet places", (Arora), single, gregarious or subcespitose (somewhat tufted) on debris in wet places, particularly along streams or the borders of swamps, (Smith), on fallen twigs and decayed wood of deciduous trees, (Maas Geesteranus)

SPORE DEPOSIT white (Arora)

MICROSCOPIC spores 9-11 x 3.5-4.5 microns, elongated-elliptic, smooth, inamyloid, (Arora), spores 9-11 x 3.5-4.5 microns, subfusoid (somewhat spindle-shaped), inamyloid; basidia 4-spored, 20-22 x 5-6 microns; cheilocystidia and pleurocystidia similar, inconspicuous, 25-32 x 6-9 microns, club-shaped to somewhat spindle-shaped or obovoid, tops often covered with a resinous secretion (when revived in KOH), (Smith), "hyphae of pileipellis 2.5-3.5 microns wide, clamped, overlying a pseudoparenchymatous hypoderm, covered with simple, cylindrical excrescences 2-9 x 1-3 microns (the gelatinous matter covering the excrescences no longer visible in microscopic slides), (Maas Geesteranus)

NAME ORIGIN means 'small pin'

SIMILAR adonis, monticola, strobilinoides, all larger with smaller spores and different cystidia; Rickenella fibula has strongly decurrent gills; some could mistake for a Hygrophorus

SOURCES Smith(1), Arora, Maas Geesteranus, Phillips*, Lincoff(2)*, Courtecuisse*, Breitenbach(3)*

FAMILY Tricholomataceae of Order Agaricales